

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A recombinant microorganism of belonging ~~to the genus~~ *Escherichia coli* ~~and~~ being capable of producing vitamin B6, wherein said microorganism carries extra nucleic acids encoding an enzyme combination selected from:

- i) erythrose 4-phosphate dehydrogenase encoded by a polynucleotide obtained from *E. coli* chromosomal DNA by PCR using primers of SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 2 and 1-deoxy-D-xylulose 5-phosphate synthase encoded by a polynucleotide obtained from *E. coli* chromosomal DNA by PCR using primers of SEQ ID NO: 5 and SEQ ID NO: 6;
- ii) erythrose 4-phosphate dehydrogenase encoded by a polynucleotide obtained from *E. coli* chromosomal DNA by PCR using primers of SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 2 and pyridoxol 5'-phosphate synthase encoded by a polynucleotide obtained from *E. coli* chromosomal DNA by PCR using primers of SEQ ID NO: 9 and SEQ ID NO: 10; and
- iii) erythrose 4-phosphate dehydrogenase encoded by a polynucleotide obtained from *E. coli* chromosomal DNA by PCR using primers of SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 2, 1-deoxy-D-

xylulose 5-phosphate synthase encoded by a polynucleotide obtained from *E. coli* chromosomal DNA by PCR using primers of SEQ ID NO: 5 and SEQ ID NO: 6 and pyridoxol 5'-phosphate synthase encoded by a polynucleotide obtained from *E. coli* chromosomal DNA by PCR using primers of SEQ ID NO: 9 and SEQ ID NO: 10.

Claim 2. (Cancelled).

Claim 3. (Original) A process for preparing vitamin B6 comprising the steps of:

- i) culturing the recombinant microorganism of claim 1 in a fermentation broth; and
- ii) separating the resulting vitamin B6 from the fermentation broth.

Claim 4. (Cancelled).

Claim 5. (Cancelled).

Claim 6. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 3, wherein said microorganism is cultured in a medium containing an assimilable carbon source, a digestible nitrogen source, inorganic salts, and other nutrients necessary for the growth of the microorganism at a pH value in the range of about 5.0 to 9.0, at a temperature in the range of from 10°C to 40°C, and for 1 day to 7 days under aerobic conditions.

Claim 7. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 3 [[4]], wherein said microorganism is cultured in a medium containing an assimilable carbon source, a digestible nitrogen source, inorganic salts, and other nutrients necessary for

the growth of the microorganism at a pH value in the range of about 6.5 to 7.5 ~~5.0 to 9.0~~, at a temperature in the range of from 10°C to 40°C, and for 1 day to 7 days under aerobic conditions.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 3 ~~[[4]]~~, wherein said microorganism is cultured in a medium containing an assimilable carbon source, a digestible nitrogen source, inorganic salts, and other nutrients necessary for the growth of the microorganism at a pH value in the range of about 5.0 to 9.0, at a temperature in the range of from 34°C to 37°C ~~10°C to 40°C~~, and for 1 day to 7 days under aerobic conditions.